

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, and 9 have been canceled.

Independent claim 2 has been amended to recite, in formula (3), a preferred range of 0.05 to 0.15 on the right hand side of the equality.

Claims 7-8 and 10-14 have been amended to depend from independent claim 2, rather than from claim 1.

New claims 18, 19 and 20 have been added.

Claim 18 depends from claim 2, and recites that a, b, c and d satisfy formula (2) shown in the claim. The range of 0.10 to 0.40 recited on the right-hand side of the formula (2) equality is a more preferable range as disclosed in the present specification. Section 112 support for claim 18 may be found, for example, at page 7, lines 6-7 and page 8, line 20 of the specification.

Claim 19 depends from claim 18, and recites that the range on the right-hand side of the formula (2) equality is from 0.15 to 0.30. This is a still more preferable range disclosed in the present specification. See page 8, line 21.

New claim 20 depends from claim 2, and is drawn to a pattern forming method comprising forming a photosensitive film having a specified thickness from the photosensitive composition of claim 2; exposing the film; and developing the exposed photosensitive film. Section 112 support for claim 20 may be found, for example, at page 9, line 9 of the specification.

No new matter has been added and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/798,360

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 2, 7-8 and 10-20 will be pending.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Action, claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kanagasabapathy et al Application Publication no. US 2004/0224255 A1.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 1-6 and 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uetani et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,383,713).

In Paragraph No. 4 of the Action, claims 1-3, 8 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okazaki et al, EP 0942329 A1, published September 15, 1999.

Applicant submits that the rejections stated in Paragraph Nos. 2, 3 and 4 of the Action should be reconsidered and withdrawn because Kanagasabapathy et al, Uetani et al and Okazaki et al do not disclose or render obvious the photosensitive composition of the present claims.

As seen in independent claim 2, the present invention relates to a photosensitive composition which includes an acid generator (Component A), a resin that decomposes by the action of an acid to increase its solubility in an alkali developing solution (Component B), a performance adjusting agent (Component C) and a solvent (Component D). In this regard, a, b, c and d represent the amounts of Components A, B, C and D in terms of parts by weight, respectively. These amounts (that is, a, b, c and d) satisfy formulas (1) and (3) recited in the claim.

New claim 18 depends from claim 2, and recites a formula (2) pertaining to the amounts a, b, c and d.

Applicant for the Examiner's convenience provides below a table which shows the values for formulas (1), (2) and (3) for Kanagasabapathy et al, Uetani et al and Okazaki et al. It will be apparent from a review of the table below and the present claims that the present claims are drawn to ranges such that the values for at least two of the formulas (1) to (3) of the present claims are outside of the values or ranges disclosed in the cited references:

Table A

	formula (1)	formula (2)	formula (3)
Invention-Previous claims	0.03-0.1	0.05-0.8	0.03-0.2
Invention-Preferable range	0.04-0.09	0.07-0.6	0.05-0.15
Invention-More preferable range	0.05-0.08	0.1-0.4	0.06-0.13
Invention-Still more preferable range	0.05-0.07	0.15-0.3	0.07-0.12
Kanagasabapathy et al.	0.131	0.180	0.045
Uetani et al.-Example 1	0.171	0.103	0.026
Uetani et al.-Example 2	0.171	0.103	0.026
Uetani et al.-Example 3	0.171	0.105	0.026
Uetani et al.-Example 4	0.171	0.103	0.026
Uetani et al.-Example 5	0.172	0.138	0.034
Uetani et al.-Example 6	0.171	0.105	0.026
Uetani et al.-Example 7	0.145	0.078	0.020
Uetani et al.-Example 8	0.145	0.059	0.015
Uetani et al.-Example 9	0.145	0.078	0.020
Uetani et al.-Comparative example 1	0.170	0.078	0.020
Uetani et al.-Comparative example 2	0.170	0.078	0.020
Uetani et al.-Comparative example 3	0.170	0.078	0.020
Uetani et al.-Comparative example 4	0.144	0.040	0.010
Okazaki et al.	0.155	0.051	0.013

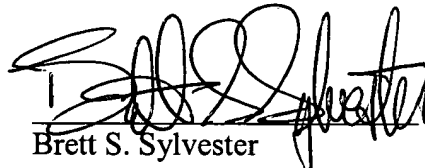
Applicant submits that the differences between the present invention, which can achieve specific effects in terms of good profile and small dependency on post-exposure baking (PEB), and the cited references are clear. The present claims define the invention in terms of specific ranges which the cited references do not disclose or teach.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/798,360

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections set forth in Paragraph Nos. 2, 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett S. Sylvester", is written over a horizontal line.

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